

## Message Text

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14-11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 BIB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /058 W

----- 049003

R 170410Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7618

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ID US XC

SUBJECT: THE DOMINO THEORY: MALIK VS. THE EDITORS

BEGIN SUMMARY: GOI FONMIN MALIK HAS ON TWO OCCASIONS DURING PAST FEW DAYS STATED HIS VIEW THAT "DOMINO THEORY" DOES NOT APPLY TO SEA IN WAKE OF INDOCHINA EVENTS. MOST OF JAKARTA PRESS HAS TAKEN ISSUE WITH THIS VIEW IN EDITORIALS STRESSING PSYCHOLOGICAL INFLUENCE OF COMMUNIST VICTORIES IN INDOCHINA ON COMMUNIST GUERILLA AND OTHER MOVEMENTS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING INDONESIA. BY CONTRAST, HOWEVER, EDITORS HAVE NOT TAKEN MALIK UP ON HIS STATEMENTS IN SAME FORA THAT U.S. IMAGE AND CREDIBILITY SUFFERING BECAUSE OF VIETNAM AND MID-EAST DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON TWO OCCASIONS BETWEEN HIS RETURN FROM TRIP TO

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SAUDI ARABIA APRIL 12 AND DEPARTURE APIL 15 FOR VISIT

TO FINLAND AND ATTENDANCE OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING  
IN STRASBORUG, GOI FONMIN MALIK HAS STATED TO PRESS  
RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF EFFECT OF POSSIBLE COMMUNIST  
TAKEOVER IN INDOCHINA ON REST OF SEA REGION. FIRST  
OCCASION WAS AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 12; SECOND  
WAS MORE DETAILED TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH THREE EDITORS  
APRIL 14.

2. MALIK VIEWS AS REPORTED BY PRESS AS FOLLOWS: MALIK  
DOES NOT BELIEVE "DOMINO THEORY" WILL MATERIALIZE IN SEA  
OR THAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA WILL ENDANGER  
INDONESIA. DOMINO THEORY IS DISCREDITED CONCEPTIONS WHICH  
HAD BEEN POPULARIZED BY U.S. IN EFFORT TO SCARE SEA  
COUNTRIES CONCERNING DANGERS OF COMMUNISM IN INDOCHINA.  
INCREASED COMMUNIST GUERILLA ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND AND  
MALAYSIA ARE NOT CONNECTED WITH COMMUNIST MILITARY SUC-  
CESSES IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. IF HANOI SHOULD SUCCEED  
IN UNITING VIETNAM OR ALL INDOCHINA SUCH INDOCHINESE  
FEDERATION MAY BE FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR SEA. RESULT  
WOULD BE SEA IN WHICH TWO POWERS (INDOCHINA DN ASEAN)  
WOULD EXIST WHICH COULD DEVELOP COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP  
AND TOGETHER SECURE REGION AGAINST SUPER-POWER INTERFER-  
ENCE. COMMUNISM IN INDOCHINA NOT LIKELY TO SPREAD TO  
SEA, BUT RATHER WILL CONTAIN STRONG ELEMENTS OF NATHIONALISM  
ALONG YUGOSLAVIA MODEL. (MALIK HAS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS  
SUGGESTED ADDITIIONAL REASON OR LACK OF VIETNAMESE COMMU-  
NIST AMBITIONS ELSEWHERE IN SEA WAS FACT THAT "HO CHI  
MINH TESTAMENT" WAS LIMITED TO COUNTRIES OF FRENCH  
INDOCHINA, AND CURRENT NORTH VIETNAMESE LEADERS CONCERNED  
ONLY WITH FULFILLING HO CHI MINH'S AMBITIONS.)

3. EDITORIALS IN LEADING JAKARTA NEWSPAPERS SUGGEST  
WIDESPREAD DISAGREEMENT WITH SANGUINE MALIK VIEW. ON DAY  
OF MALIK RETURN FROM SAUDI ARABIA, ARMY DAILY ANGKATAN  
BERSENTJATA AND GOVERNMENT PARTY GOLKAR-BACKED DAILY SUARA  
KARYA BOTH CARRIED EDITORIALS ON UPSURGE OF COMMUNIST  
GUERILLA ACTIVIITY IN THAILAND AND MALAYSIA WHICH LINKED  
THESE DEVELOPMENTS WITH MORAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ENCOURAGE-  
MENT PROVIDED GUERILLAS BY COMMUNIST SUCCESES IN  
INDO CHINA AND OPINED THAT INDONNESAI ALSO SUBJECT TO SUCH  
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SIDE-EFFECTS BECAUSE OF ITS OWN RESIDUAL DOMSTIC COMMUNIST  
PROBLEM. EDITORIAL IN MOSLEM DAILY PELITA STRESSED SAME  
THEME APRIL 16 (FOLLOWING MALIK TV INTERVIEW), REFERRING  
DIRECTLY TO MALIK STATEMENT AND SUGGESTING THAT PROBLEM  
SHOULD BE EXAMINED MORE DEEPLY. LEADING INDEPENDENT  
DAILY KIMPAS SAME DAY CARRIED EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THAILAND  
ON THE FRONT LINES," POINTEDLY NOTING THAT THAILAND NOW  
IN DIFFICULT POSITION WITH BOTH COMMUNIST GUERILLA

PRESENCE AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS, AND CITING  
THAI BORDERS WITH BURMA, MALAYSIA AND (VIA OCEAN BOUNDARY)  
INDONESIA AS REASON FOR THESE COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW THAI  
DEVELOPMENTS WITH CONCERN.

4. EVEN MORE DIRECT CRITICISM OF MALIK CONTAINED IN  
EDITORIAL APRIL 15 IN EVENING INDEPENDENT SINAR HARAPAN  
ENTITLED "MALIK GOES ABROAD AGAIN." WHICH NOTED FREQUENT  
MALIK TRAVELS IN RECENT WEEKS ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER HIGH-  
LEVEL FONOFF OFFICIALS, REFERRED TO FLUID SITUATIONS IN  
SEA AND MID-EAST AND SPECIFICALLY TO EVIDENCE THAT KHMER  
AND VIETNAM SITUATIONS ALREADY INFLUENCING ATTITUDES OF  
THAILAND AND PHILIPPINES, AND SUGGESTED THAT "IT WOULD BE  
BETTER" IF FONMIN AND HIS STAFF ADJUSTED THEIR SCHEDULES  
IN LIGHT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

5. BY CONTRAST, HOWEVER, EDITIROS HAVE NOT TAKEN MALIK  
UP ON HIS COMMENTS ON SAME OCCASIONS TO EFFECT THAT  
PRESIDENT FORD'S APRIL 10 FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS CONTAINED "NOTHING  
NEW" AND EXPRESSED ONLY "HOPES" WHEREAS WHAT NEEDED NOW  
IS CONCRETE ACTIONS, AND THAT IF U.S. "FAILS" IN MID-EAST  
AS IT HAS IN VIETNAM AMERICA'S IMAGE WILL SUFFER AND U.S.  
WILL "NEVER BE TRUSTED EVER AGAIN."  
NEWSOM

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